



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHUCK ROSENBERG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 28, 2007

Jim Rybicki
Public Information Officer
Phone: (703)842-4050 Fax: (703)549-5202
E-Mail: usavae.press@usdoj.gov
Website: www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae

Further Information Contact:
Laura Taylor (804) 819-5400

Defendant Sentenced to 16 Months for Attempting to Defraud Child Support System

(Richmond, VA) – Craig Nelson Burkholder, age 35, of Suffolk, Virginia, was sentenced today to 16 months imprisonment for Mail Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1341. United States District Judge Henry E. Hudson imposed the sentence and also ordered Burkholder to serve a 3 year term of supervised release following imprisonment, during which he would have to maintain employment and continue payment of his child support. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and Nathaniel L. Young, Jr., Deputy Commissioner and Director of Child Support Enforcement, Virginia Department of Social Services, announced the sentence.

According to court records, in August 2005, Judge Rodham T. Delk, Jr. of the 5th Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia in Suffolk, Virginia entered an Order of Support requiring the defendant to pay approximately \$52,085.43 in child support arrearages and \$3,228.03 in accrued interest for the defendant's dependents. The payments were to be payable to the Treasurer of Virginia via the Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Child Support Enforcement, in Richmond, Virginia. Rather than pay the court-ordered obligation, Burkholder executed and mailed a fraudulent "Banker's Acceptance Note" in the amount of \$52,000 to the Treasurer of Virginia. In a letter accompanying the payment, the defendant made a number of false representations regarding the validity of the Banker's Acceptance Note and the effect of the instrument if it were negotiated. These representations included a statement that if the Treasurer accepted or otherwise negotiated the Banker's Acceptance Note, the Commonwealth of Virginia could not pursue any further child support actions against the defendant. Burkholder also asserted in the letter that if the instrument were negotiated and the Commonwealth attempted to bring any action against him, the Treasurer would agree to pay him the sum of \$500,000. The defendant also claimed that he did not owe any amount in child support. The Banker's Acceptance Note was determined to be fraudulent and have no pecuniary value.

The investigation was conducted by the United States Secret Service. Assistant United States Attorney Michael Gill prosecuted the case for the United States.

#